

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiroshi NOMURA et al. Group Art Unit : 2873
Appl. No. : 10/771,299 Examiner: Mack, Ricky Lavern
Filed : February 5, 2004 Confirmation No.: 3246
For : LIGHT SHIELDING STRUCTURE OF RETRACTABLE LENS
BARREL

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

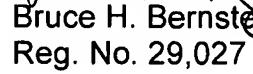
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fees
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on March 14, 2005 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA et al.


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May 27, 2005
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